

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /054 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:LCKILDAY AND PHWACKERBARTH:RMC

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN: DAVID LAZAR

SCA/SCS:JHUGHES

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O 101938Z JUL 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, HO (CYPHER, MICHAEL J.)

SUBJECT: W/W MICHAEL J. CYPHER, AKA PADRE CASEMIRO

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 02960 AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN OR ACTING FONMIN TO MAKE ORAL PRESENTATION OF STRONG USG CONCERN OVER FATE OF AMCIT FATHER MICHAEL CYPHER. EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT ITS INFORMAL LOWER-LEVEL INQUIRIES REGARDING FATE OF FATHER CYPHER HAVE BEEN UNFRUITFUL, THAT THERE ARE CIRCULATING IN HONDURAS AND IN U.S. A MULTITUDE OF RUMORS, SOME TO EFFECT THAT CYPHER WAS ARRESTED AND DETAINED, SOME TO EFFECT THAT CYPHER WAS KILLED UNDER STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THAT IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO MAKE FORMAL REQUEST FOR A PROMPT AND FULL REPORT FROM GOH ON CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING CYPHER'S DISAPPEARANCE. EMBASSY MAY STATE THAT WE DO NOT NECESSARILY NEED A SEPARATE REPORT, THAT OUR NEEDS COULD BE MET BY  
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REPORT OF INVESTIGATING COMMISSION IF THAT REPORT IS TO BE

RELEASED PROMPTLY AND IF IT ESTABLISHES CLEARLY THE BASIC FACTS SURROUNDING FATHER CYPHER'S DISAPPEARANCE. HOWEVER, IF REPORT IS AMBIGUOUS ON THIS POINT, IF IT IS NOT GOING TO BE RELEASED PROMPTLY (WITHIN NEXT DAY OR TWO) OR IF GOH DOES NOT WISH TO RELEASE THAT REPORT TO USG,

THEN WE MUST REQUEST SEPARATE, PROMPT ACCOUNT OF FACTS IN CYPHER CASE. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT IF FATHER CYPHER HAS BEEN KILLED, USG WILL EXPECT GOH TO MAKE PROMPT AND VIGOROUS EFFORT TO APPREHEND AND PROSECUTE THOSE RESPONSIBLE.

2. WITH RESPECT TO PARA. 5, REFTTEL, WE WOULD INTEND TO FOLLOW UP YOUR ORAL REPRESENTATION WITH FORMAL DIPLOMATIC NOTE UNDER ANY OF FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES: A) IF THERE IS REASON TO SUSPECT GOH IS NOT VIGOROUSLY PURSUING ALL LEADS TO DETERMINE FACTS IN CYPHER CASE; B) IF CYPHER'S DEATH IS ESTABLISHED AND GOH IS NOT MOVING PROMPTLY TO APPREHEND AND PROSECUTE THOSE RESPONSIBLE; AND C) IF CYPHER'S DEATH IS ESTABLISHED AND THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ANY GOH OFFICIAL IMPLICATED. REQUEST EMBASSY COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE162389  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** LCKILDAY AND PHWACKERBARTH:RMC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750238-1114  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750767/aaaacijy.tel  
**Line Count:** 83  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 TEGUCIGALPA 02960  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 SEP 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** W/W MICHAEL J. CYPHER, AKA PADRE CASEMIRO  
**TAGS:** CASC, HO, (CYPHER, MICHAEL J)  
**To:** TEGUCIGALPA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006